

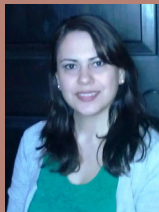
Ward 6 Staff



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Amy Stabler



Evelyn Romero



Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

February 5, 2014

Council Agenda Review:

We had a very full agenda on Tuesday, and since many of the items only set the stage for more work to come, I'm just going to give a brief review of the top ones and then share some of the other issues I'm working on.

Budget – no surprise to some of us, but we face a significant deficit as we enter the fy'15 budget talks. I've shared estimates before, but staff puts the # at around \$33M. That number will float depending on how revenues and expenses come in, but we ignore it, and/or rely on more short-term fixes at our own risk. This will only get worse next fiscal year as a result of multiple retirements, largely in public safety. We'll be talking about where to trim in the upcoming months.

Bus Fares/Service – last time I shared the proposal staff was recommending related to fare increases. We'll soon see the Comprehensive Operational Analysis that will merge into that discussion ways we might increase efficiencies of the system. Staff suggested we cap our General Fund allocation to the bus system at \$40.7M. That will leave a \$6M gap this fiscal year that we'll need to fill with fares and/or service reductions. It's all a part of the overall budget discussion and can't be ignored. We'll be holding public hearings on the proposed fare policy later this spring.

TCC Management RFP – we reviewed the scope of a proposed Request for Proposals that'll be issued for managing the TCC and related venues (Leo Rich and Music Hall, most immediately). We lose money on how that place is run every year. A part of those losses may be addressed if we get a professional management team in place, tie together some of the component parts of running it (signage contracts, catering/concessions agreement, scheduling, marketing, etc) so one entity has their arms around the whole package. Of course, Visit Tucson and Rio have to be allowed some voice in this as it develops, but getting the RFP out on the street is a good first step.

Workforce Development and Special Events RFP – we gave approval to restart the process of soliciting applicants for the workforce training programs. The awards will again be competitively assigned, and as a part of that process we made two important changes; eliminated the minimum amount that can be awarded, and stipulated that no single recipient can receive over 40% of the total available for their category. As for the specific amount allocated, both for workforce development and for outside events, we'll tackle that as a part of the budget discussions.

As you can see, budget is driving much of what we're doing right now.

Panda Buffet Demolition

Another important item we tackled on Tuesday was the proposal to demolish the Panda Buffet building. It deserves separate mention here.



Important Phone Numbers

**Tucson Police
Department**

911 or 791-4444
nonemergency

**Mayor & Council
Comment Line**

791-4700

**Neighborhood
Resources**

791-4605

Park Wise

791-5071

Water Issues

791-3242

**Pima County Animal
Control**

243-5900

Street Maintenance
791-3154

**Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550**

Southwest Gas
889-1888

**Gas Emergency/
Gas Leaks**

889-1888

**West Nile Virus
Hotline**

243-7999

**Environment
Service**

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

AZ Game & Fish
628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

For 15 years before the RTA was approved in 2006, the City has been buying up parcels along Broadway, anticipating an eventual expansion of that roadway to a 150' wide crosswidth, with the added width going to the north. While I understand the real estate strategy in making those early purchases, they end up costing money in terms of making the City a landlord/property owner, and they prematurely assumed the alignment that is now the topic of much study by the Broadway Citizen's Task Force. The message sent to businesses along the corridor was to avoid investment in your building since we're headed your way with either a check in hand, or a wrecking ball – or both. The result has been dis-investment.

One of the buildings the City bought was the Panda Buffet. At the time, it had a tenant. Now it doesn't and so it sits empty and has become a crime magnet, placing surrounding residents and business operators at risk. And the City is still paying a property management firm to watch over the place. The cost to repair vandal caused damage is in excess of \$50K, and to bring the space up to a usable condition if leased is another nearly \$70K. Given all of those dynamics, the City asked us for permission to take down the building. I understand the reasoning.

...but it comes with deal points and commentary.

First, just demolishing the building and leaving an empty lot is unacceptable. That's just more blight, just a little more horizontal than with the building standing. Working with the Living Streets Alliance people, City staff, Task Force members and surrounding stakeholders, we've begun a discussion on what treatment the remaining space will receive. There's a small budget to work with, but engaging the community to replace something with something-other-than-nothing is an important message to send, both to the community and to staff. Some of the initial ideas offered included meeting spaces for neighborhood events, a site for placing some historic signs, a Park-and-Ride option for the bus system, a Farmer's Market, and kiosks.

The further message to staff is that we're not approving this as the first domino in a line of City owned parcels along that corridor for demo. This is a one-off deal and no more will be entertained until the CTF has proposed their alignment and design of the corridor. I've been a bull-dog on moving that process along for over a year. It's still going too slowly for my taste, but maybe this action will spur some speed.

I appreciate the situation of the people who live and work around the Panda, and for that reason very reluctantly agreed to move the demo forward. But it's also true that staff has got to stop telling prospects for our or other property along that corridor that we're condemning them in a couple of years. That decision is still pending the RTA task force process – and several other funding challenges that the RTA is wrestling with as well. With our vote, staff will continue the engagement of stakeholders to determine the treatment for the site and go out to secure bids for knocking down the building. This is the culmination of a series of premature actions taken by the City over the course of the last 20 years. At least for Broadway, it's stopping until we know what the final design will be.

Downtown Links Corridor Project

This is the project that will connect the Barraza-Aviation Parkway to I-10, a by-pass of the downtown core. The portion that runs from Church to Broadway is about 90% through design and will get started later next year. One part of the project that is important that hasn't gotten much publicity is the request we have into Union Pacific and the Federal Rail Administration to make the rail crossings 'no horn' zones. The FRA has a different title ("No Regular Use of the Train Horn



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404

Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

'Zone') to send the message that engineers reserve the ultimate right to blow the horn for safety reasons.

There are several reasons this designation is being considered. They revolve around the marketability of surrounding properties, impact of the horns on surrounding residential areas, and the upgrades that will be required in the crossings will make them safer for bikes, pedestrians and cars. The Feds don't just let you make the designation – they require changes to sight lines, grades, and manner of crossing before they'll tell the engineers to lay off the horns.

On Monday, February 10th a representative from the FRA will attend the regular Downtown Links project meeting to provide an overview of rail crossing safety and how we go about achieving the 'no horns' designation. The meeting begins at 5:30 and is held at the USA building at St. Mary's and Grande. Here are the crossings we've presented to the rail administrators for consideration of this change:

- . Main Avenue crossing
- . 5th Street crossing
- . 6th Street crossing (to become an underpass)
- . 9th Avenue crossing
- . 7th Avenue crossing

The meeting on the 10th is open to the public, so come on by if you're interested in hearing the discussion.

Pima Association of Governments – 2045 Survey

And speaking of the RTA and transportation planning, the PAG is soliciting input from the community about what sorts of things we'd like to see incorporated in our long range planning focus.

They're going to identify goals, performance targets and projects that will serve as a very general roadmap for the next 30 years in the region. Considered in the thinking will be things such as:

- . Land use and growth forecasts
- . Public transportation
- . Congestion management
- . High-capacity transit
- . Transportation finance
- . Transportation safety
- . Bikeways and sidewalks
- . Aviation improvements
- . Highways and arterials
- . Road maintenance

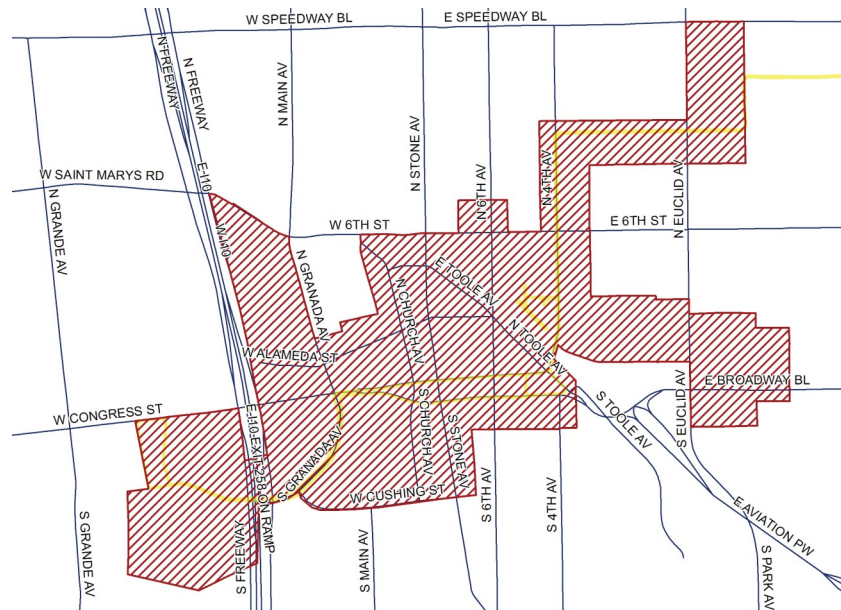
They'll be taking input up through the middle of March. If you'd like to offer your insights, here's the link to their survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2045RTP>

Downtown Entertainment District

Back in 2010, then City staff and Ward 6 participated in a pretty significant public outreach to present and receive feedback on the idea of establishing an Entertainment District in the downtown core. This was largely the result of what was pretty clearly at the time our being at the front end of significant development in the downtown core, and not wanting to bump up against restrictions on that growth caused by the proximity of Clubs selling alcohol being proposed close to Charter schools or churches. House Bill 2596 allows for those exemptions, but requires that they be kept within a geographically defined Entertainment District.

Changes happened in City staff and the item fell into the background. But the anticipated development continued and recently I asked staff to dust off the proposal and run it through that public comment process again so we can get the District approved. Given the support we heard the first time around, I'm hopeful that the groundwork laid a couple of years ago will prove to be solid.

On Wednesday, February 5th from 6pm until 8pm, that process will resume. If you'd like to participate, the presentation will be given at the Sentinel Building @ 301 N. Commerce Park Loop. Here's a sneak peak at the boundaries arrived at as a result of the first go-round of public comments:



TPD Trauma Kits

Several months ago some folks from the medical/trauma community brought to my attention that the trauma kits our police were using were dated, ineffective and needed replacement. These aren't the sorts of things I'd normally discover on my own, so I'm thankful to the guys who tipped me off to the needs. In a series of exchanges I ran it up both the TPD and PCSO flag poles, only to discover that we were in fact needing to upgrade our gear. The County was already out ahead of us in this (I suspect due in large measure to their not having TFD as an immediate back-up when they come on a scene requiring that sort of medical support.)

To their credit, leadership in the City Manager's office, and to the top levels of our Police Department responded and have made some significant changes to what our officers are carrying around in their vehicles. The new emergency kits contain items such as special wound packing gauzes, a tourniquet, pressure dressings to treat severe wounds, a large bandage to cover abdominal wounds, and an airtight sticker that seals holes in the chest cavity. As you can imagine, they arrived with a training component. Now, about 600 of our officers and sergeants have received that training in how to use the new kits. They cost just under \$40K. In the process of buying them, TPD also qualified for a military surplus program that will allow us to supplement the kits with additional medical supplies.

In addition to the work done by staff to secure this equipment, the credit for this goes to the guys who made me aware of it. They want some anonymity – for a variety of reasons – but they know who they are and can rest knowing that their willingness to speak up will save untold numbers of lives in the years ahead.

More TPD – Legislation

At the January 7th Loft Forum, our law enforcement guests shared with us that under current Arizona Law, they're prohibited from knowing whether a suspect is a prohibited possessor of a firearm if that is based on mental health conditions. The State is considering an amendment that will open those records to our police officers to assist them in the course of investigations. Here is some of the salient language:

HB2322

13-609. Transfer of criminal justice information; national
5 instant criminal background check system; centralized
6 case index; definitions

7 A. THE CLERK OF COURT SHALL TRANSMIT THE CASE INFORMATION OF EVERY
8 CASE THAT INVOLVES A COVERED OFFENSE TO THE SUPREME COURT. THE SU-
PREME COURT

9 SHALL TRANSMIT THE CASE INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY. THE

10 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL TRANSMIT THE CASE INFORMATION TO
THE

11 NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM

2. "COVERED OFFENSE" MEANS:

43 (a) AN INDICTMENT OR INFORMATION FOR AN OFFENSE IF EITHER THE JUDICIAL
44 OFFICER IMPOSES AS A CONDITION OF RELEASE THAT THE PERSON NOT POSSESS
A

45 FIREARM OR THE OFFENSE CHARGED IS LISTED IN SECTION 13-706, SUBSECTION
F.

1 (b) A MISDEMEANOR COMPLAINT FOR AN OFFENSE IF THE JUDICIAL OFFICER
2 IMPOSES AS A CONDITION OF RELEASE THAT THE PERSON NOT POSSESS A FIRE-
ARM.

Having to this point been unable to find a place of common ground with the gun-rights guys, I'm hopeful that this is one. If we can't agree that a cop who's investigating a suspect can have access to information that a judicial officer has deemed that person mentally incompetent to possess a gun, then all we do is put our police officers and everybody else in the community at risk.

I'm still trying to get gun shops to post some suicide prevention hot line numbers (so far, they won't) or agree to participate in some Mental Health First Aid Training (so far, they won't – even for free,) but maybe, just maybe we can all fit on the little yellow spot where the circles overlap in agreement on this one. Time will tell.



Firefighters

And kudos to the owners of Firehouse Subs for their \$18,000 Grant to TFD for the purchase of some very specialized Air Packs. Tucson Fire Department was able to purchase five Industrial Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus' which are unique to fire investigators. While all firefighters wear air packs during a fire, once it's extinguished the danger doesn't disappear. That's when the fire investigators enter the scene, and they're now being offered an extra measure of protection by these packs.

All of our public safety workers need the sorts of extra gear that have been noted in this newsletter, and our thanks go out to the members of the public who step up and offer their participation in providing what we need.

And by way of promo – Firehouse Subs is currently located at 3844 W. River. They'll be opening two more Tucson locations soon.

Pima Animal Care Grant



There are 50 animal shelters from around the Country that are now competing for about \$600K in grant prizes that will be awarded later this year by the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.) The basis is the increase in the number of adoptions a shelter experiences between June, July and August of this summer and those same months from 2013. If they save 300 more dogs and cats during those months this year than last, the ASPCA will award PACC \$5K. That's a good start, but they've set a higher goal.

Last year during those months, PACC adopted out 3,600 pets. For the shelter that achieves the greatest increase in lives saved, the prizes can amount to up to \$100K. Given the significant needs for shelter and other amenities out at PACC, they're going for the big prize money and asking for your support through participating in their adoption program. Their goal is saving 5,000 lives during those three months, and hoping those numbers will push them into a big winners' category.

Last year PACC adopted out over 12,000 animals. In the last two years they've increased their 'live release' rate from 55% up to nearly 75%. The work of the staff and volunteers out there is a testament to each person's love of the animals they're committed to at the shelter. If you'd like more information on the contest, you can find it at <http://challenge.aspcapro.org/>.

There are close to ½ million people living in greater Pima County. Increasing the adoptions by 1,400 is an attainable goal. They're located at 4000 N. Silverbell – phone # is 243.5900 – hours are weekdays, noon until 7pm, and weekends from 10am until 5pm. They close the last Sunday of every month to give staff a chance to catch up on life.

More on pet adoptions...

A while back I mentioned that I was working with several groups and our City Attorney on the language for a proposal that would help make retail pet stores a part of the solution to the number of potential pets that we euthanize at shelters. At the same time, we'd be making a statement against the propagation of puppy mills that merely broker dogs and cats en masse to stores as commodities. That process has been an education. Along the way I enlisted the support of Ward 2 and Council Member Cunningham (in fact, he and I are teaming up on another issue – parking fines – see next item) and we've now put the puppy item on the March 4th study session. Here's the key portion of the draft language of the proposed ordinance:

4-8.1(2). PROHIBITIONS. IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO DISPLAY, OFFER FOR SALE, DELIVER, BARTER, AUCTION, GIVE AWAY, TRANSFER OR SELL ANY DOG OR CAT IN ANY PET STORE, RETAIL BUSINESS OR OTHER COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT LOCATED IN THE CITY UNLESS THE DOG OR CAT WAS OBTAINED FROM ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

(A) AN ANIMAL SHELTER OR A HUMANE SOCIETY LOCATED IN PIMA COUNTY; OR

(B) A NON-PROFIT RESCUE AND HUMANE ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION

AND PRACTICE IS, IN WHOLE OR IN SIGNIFICANT PART, THE RESCUE AND PLACEMENT OF DOGS OR CATS; OR

(C) A PRIVATE OWNER THAT DONATED, WITHOUT ANY CHARGE, FEE OR OTHER CONSIDERATION, THE DOG OR CAT TO THE PET STORE, RETAIL BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT.

Along the way I've become familiar with standards allowed by some of the regulatory agencies. This, for example:



You've likely seen in previous newsletters pictures like this – allowed by the Animal Welfare Act. But to put it into perspective:



A beagle could live its whole adult life in a kennel the size of your dishwasher and never be let out. Recognizing that these aren't 'temporary' living conditions, numerous other jurisdictions in Arizona and around the Country have already adopted puppy mill ordinances.

This does not target legitimate breeders. In fact, here are rules that come directly from the Codes of Ethics of several breeder clubs:

Pug Dog Club of America

No member shall EVER sell or donate dogs for auctions or raffles, or to pet shops, catalog houses, brokers or for resale purposes.

German Shepherd Dog Club of America

No GSD will be sold to wholesalers or retail stores for the purpose of resale. No GSD will be sold, leased, or offered at stud to franchised commercial facilities, businesses, or agents thereof. No GSD will be sold or donated to a research laboratory or offered as a prize or sold at auction.

Spaniel Dog Club of America

H. Refrain from selling puppies to pet shops either outright or on consignment; refrain from supplying puppies for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises; refrain from selling to persons whose intention to resell is known or suspected; refrain from breeding litters primarily for the pet market

Collie Dog Club of America

1. No member shall knowingly sell or place, trade or give any Collie of any age to pet dealers, catalog houses, or other commercial sources; nor shall Collies be given as prizes, auctioned, or exploited to the detriment of the breed.

American Boxer Dog Club of America

The following infractions are considered to be actions contrary to the best interest of the breed and/or the American Boxer Club:

5. Selling, consigning or disposing of a puppy or an adult Boxer to a pet shop, chain of pet shops or any commercial kennel for resale.

And neither is it a prohibition on the sale of dogs and cats on a retail basis. It's simply saying that we as a jurisdiction won't tolerate the conditions in which these mill pets are bred, we recognize the need in our own community to find homes for shelter and rescue animals, and so that will be the source for retail sales in the City of Tucson.

I'm grateful for the support of the many groups who have offered their time and expertise in framing the draft Ordinance language, and to Paul for his support as well. More on this to come in the weeks ahead.

Parking Fines

...and the other item Paul and I are working on together is the level of parking fines we collect in the City. There's misunderstanding on how those fees are calculated, so first, this primer.

We collect 4 basic types of parking fees: basic fees (like for overstaying a meter,) nuisance (residential parking permit violations,) Safety (too close to a hydrant,) and Disabled (parking in a space marked for disabled.) (Note: I'm going to request that we eliminate from our lexicon the term "handicapped." That term has a derogatory history – disabled people were assumed to only be able to survive on hand-outs. We should up our game and get it out of how we speak and write our codes.)

For each of those categories, there is a base fee, and then add-ons from the State, Court and County (to be clear, the County only gets \$1 from any ticket, regardless of the violation, so

(they're not really a part of this discussion.) The State is the big 'partner' in this. They add 83 cents to every dollar we collect and take it up to Phoenix. So for example, what begins as a \$6.67 simple parking meter fine escalates to a \$62 bill by the time it gets to you. That includes Case Processing fees (split between the General Fund and City Court @ \$10 each – and the 83% mark-up by the State) and an additional 83% to the State on the original fee.

How do we compare to other jurisdictions in the State? High in most categories.

Violation Description	Tucson	Phoenix	Scottsdale	Tempe
Disabled Space	Base - \$280 Total w/fees - \$562	Base - \$150 Total w/fees - \$288	Base - \$200 Total w/fees - \$379	Base - \$251 Total w/fees - \$472
Parking Meter	Base - \$6.67 Total w/fees - \$62	Base - \$31 Total w/fees - \$70	Base - \$15 Total w/fees - \$40.45	Base - \$15.75 Total w/fees - \$42
Residential Permit Violation	Base - \$19.13 Total w/fees - \$85	Base - \$31 Total w/fees - \$70	Base - \$15 Total w/fees - \$40.45	Base - \$15.75 Total w/fees - \$42
15' of a hydrant	Base - \$75 Total w/fees - \$188	Base - \$40 Total w/fees - \$86	Base - \$15 Total w/fees - \$40.45	Base - \$60 Total w/fees - \$109.80

So, coming to a middle ground where we allow our parking folks and court to cover costs, but not make the State rich on our backs (they get about 45% - 50% of everything we collect – and do virtually nothing to 'earn' it) is the discussion.

As with the puppy mills, more to come on this one.



...ya, so what could go wrong...

State Representative Victoria Steele and I have shared several speaking engagements and forums on the topic of what we feel are some pretty common sense approaches to gun control. She has now proposed HB2542, a bill that will make it a class one misdemeanor for a person to leave a loaded firearm in an unsecured area to which a child would have access. If that results in a child fatally injuring himself or another, the adult would face a class four felony.

When I was growing up, I took a course presented by the NRA on gun safety. Back then, that was their mantra. And, it made sense. Now groups like that are circling their wagons in opposition to proposals such as Victoria's, despite data such as this coming from a variety of studies:

- 8 of every 10 firearm wounds were inflicted by handguns, according to hospital records reviewed by the doctors.
- On a related topic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, suicide is the third leading cause of death. It results in approximately 4600 lives lost each year. The top three methods used in suicides of young people include firearm (45%), suffocation (40%), and poisoning (8%).

And so perhaps it's time to talk about handgun safety and not get overly wrapped up in the discussions related solely to military-style semi-automatics? Here's more:

- Researchers have found that millions of children live in homes with easily accessible

guns. Approximately one of three handguns is kept loaded and unlocked and most children know where their parents keep their guns.

- In one 2006 study, 73% of children under age 10 living in homes with guns reported knowing the location of their parents' firearms, and 36% admitted they had handled the weapons;
- A 1999 study found that more than 75% of the guns used in youth suicide attempts and unintentional injuries were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a friend <http://smartgunlaws.org/child-access-prevention-policy-summary/#footnote_2_5958>. At least two studies have found that the risk of suicide increases in homes where guns are kept loaded and/or unlocked <http://smartgunlaws.org/child-access-prevention-policy-summary/#footnote_3_5958>.
- In July 2004, the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education published a study examining 37 school shootings from 1974-2000. That study found that in more than 65% of the cases, the attacker got the gun from his or her own home or that of a relative <http://smartgunlaws.org/child-access-prevention-policy-summary/#footnote_4_5958>. Now, think Sandy Hook and where that kid got his weapons.

Do Child Access Prevention laws make any difference?

- One study found that in twelve states where such laws had been in effect for at least one year, unintentional firearm deaths fell by 23% from 1990-94 among children under 15 years of age <http://smartgunlaws.org/child-access-prevention-policy-summary/#footnote_5_5958>.
- A 2004 study evaluating the association between CAP laws and suicides among youth found that such laws were associated with an 8.3% decrease in suicides among 14-17 year olds <http://smartgunlaws.org/child-access-prevention-policy-summary/#footnote_6_5958>.
- A 2005 study found that the practices of keeping firearms locked, unloaded, and storing ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms serves as a protective measure to reduce youth suicide and unintentional injury in homes with children and teenagers where guns are stored <http://smartgunlaws.org/child-access-prevention-policy-summary/#footnote_7_5958>.

These studies affirm the wisdom of the proposed law. So do these stories:

In Arizona

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/arizona/free/20131221arizona-toddler-dead-accidental-shooting-sahuarita.html>

SAHUARITA — Police say an Arizona toddler is dead after accidentally shooting himself with his parent's gun in Dec. 2013

Officer Philip Steele told KVOA television station that the shooting happened Friday night at the family's home in Sahuarita, south of Tucson. Steele said officers found the 3-year-old boy with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the face after responding to an emergency call along Calle Miner-va around 7:45 p.m. The boy was pronounced dead at the scene.

In Texas

http://www.slate.com/blogs/crime/2013/05/31/trenton_mathis_accidental_shooting_another_day_another_accidental_child.html

In May 2013, a two-year-old Texas boy named Trenton Mathis accidentally shot and killed himself with a handgun he found sitting on his great-grandfather's nightstand. According to the web-site of KLTV <<http://www.kltv.com/story/22457699/cps-fought-to-keep-child-who-shot-himself-out-of-cherokee-county-home>>, Mathis had gone into his great-grandparents' bedroom in search of chewing gum. Instead, he found a loaded 9 mm handgun, which he used to shoot himself in the face. Mathis was pronounced dead at a Tyler, Texas hospital. He would have turned three years old in July.

In Minnesota

http://www.slate.com/blogs/crime/2013/06/04/kao_xiong_accidental_child_shooting_death_a_four_year_boy_killed_his_two.html

In December 2012, a 2-year-old Minnesota boy named Neegnco Xiong was accidentally shot and killed by his 4-year-old brother, with a handgun their father had stashed under a pillow. After the shooting, police found several other unsecured firearms in the house. Last Friday the boy's father, 31-year-old Kao Xiong, was convicted <http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/268715/group/homepage/> on manslaughter charges in the death of his son. He faces up to four years in prison.

In Oklahoma

http://www.slate.com/blogs/crime/2013/05/30/saylor_slone_martine_another_accidental_child_shooting_death_shows_that.html

In May 2013, 15-year-old Saylor Slone Martine died <http://swtimes.com/sections/news/leflore-county-teen-killed-accidental-gun-discharge.html> after she was shot in the head with a semi-automatic handgun that belonged to her parents. (The Poteau, Okla. Daily News says <http://www.poteaudailynews.com/content/spiro-teen-dies-accidental-shooting>) Martine's mother had recently purchased the gun for "personal protection.") Martine and her 12-year-old sister had been handling the gun when they laid it down on a counter, where it "suddenly discharged," according to the Times Record <http://swtimes.com/sections/news/leflore-county-teen-killed-accidental-gun-discharge.html>. Martine died in the hospital. The sheriff speculated that the incident might have been caused by a "production defect" with the handgun. Just another one of those sad, tragic accidents?

And in a recent newsletter I reported on a similar case where the dad stuffed the gun under the couch pillow while he answered the front door.

Victoria, State Senator David Bradley and I will be working on some related issues prior to their re-election this November. But this Bill needs to see the light of day in committee up in Phoenix. I'll be asking candidates if they will support at least having the debate.

Sex Trafficking Forum

I missed last week's newsletter due to being stuck between the covers fighting the crud, but wanted to share the results of the forum we helped to promote at PCC a couple of weeks ago on this important topic. The work of Aimee Graves (CODAC), Catherine Tornbom (Center for Community Dialogue), and Beth Jacobs (Willow Way) brought this event across the finish line. On the morning of the event, my estimate is that there were about 100 participants, representing service providers, law enforcement and survivors. For three hours they discussed what services exist in our community, where gaps may exist, where duplication may be happening, and offered some next steps. Here's a brief summary:

22% of trafficked/prostituted women were first trafficked as minors. Of that group, the average age (domestically) is under 15 years old. Internationally, it's under 10 years old.

85% - 90% of those in prostitution want to escape it. We met several during our Project RAISE. As a result, some of them are now going through the CODAC diversion option we offered.

And some of the take-aways for action included a variety of funding ideas, shifting some law enforcement resources back to a newly reconstituted vice unit, offering facilities for safe harbor (a very big item), and lots of talk about educating youth and their parents. That's what we tried to touch on during our first forum on this topic. It's a need that will not go away. If you have a computer or smart phone in your house, your kids are vulnerable to being trafficked.

If you'd like more information on this issue, contact Beth Jacobs (survivor) at 218.506.8296, or Chelsea Hall (Southern Arizona Against Slavery) at 480.686.1653. We'll be continuing our work from the Ward 6 office on this issue.

And thanks once again to Heather Rowe from KOLD for taking her morning and overseeing the event last week.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Check Out the Gem and Mineral Show!

General Information

<http://www.visittucson.org/events/gem-show/>

Getting Around with GemRide

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parkwise/gemshowparking>

Gem Show Listings...

<http://www.visittucson.org/includes/content/docs/media/2014-GemShow-Listings.pdf>

... and the Associated Map

<http://www.visittucson.org/includes/content/docs/media/2014GemShowGuide-Map.pdf>